

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

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J. B. MILLER

ANOTHER OIL RIG IS HERE

NOW IN RAILROAD YARDS—WILL LIKELY GO UP EAST OF LIBERAL

Wichita And Eastern Capital

Are Interested in the Test. This Is a Combined Standard and Rotary Which Will Be Used

Another oil rig arrived in the local railroad yards during the night and interest in the oil game is again becoming intense.

The rig will be one of the best in the country, a combined standard and rotary of large size, and the work of unloading will start today.

Just where the rig will be located is not yet known. The company has two blocks of acreage, but the one most desired has not yet been completed. It is going to be necessary to get a few more leases to complete the block and insure the drilling of this block, which lies east of town. If this cannot be done within the next few days, the rig will be erected on the other location northwest of town.

This acreage was blocked by R. H. Edgerly and Chas. Neff, who have spent the greater part of a year in the work. The name of the company has not been given out but it is known that Edgerly and associates are making the test, which is financed by Wichita and eastern capitalists. They are all mid-continent operators who have made their money in the field and know the game from beginning to end.

A glance at the geological report shows up in good shape and it is the intention to make a speedy effort to finish the test. It is confidently expected to start drilling by August

1st, and with a rotary outfit the next few months should see the test completed.

The starting of this test means a new impetus to the oil game here. With the big gasser brought in a year ago by the Traders Oil Corporation, their second well down almost to pay territory, the Seward County Oil & Gas Company down 500 feet, and rig for the Skaer test and the Beaver Oil & Gas Company drilling steadily it begins to look as though there was bound to be something doing at an early date.

One encouraging sign is that owners of leases are all paying up their rentals. Thousands of dollars are being paid to hold acreage bought previous to the bringing in of the gasser, and that these rentals are being paid is proof that the people of this section are not losing faith in the field, while the bringing in of this rig proves that the outsiders have faith in the oil possibilities here.

The Seward County Oil & Gas Company will be down 500 feet this evening. The first few hundred feet have been hard to drill on account of the quicksand, but now that this is done it is expected to go on down at a rapid rate.

But few leases are changing hands but the main reason for this is that few care to sell, and prices have not fallen since the excitement of the bringing in of the big gasser.

does not brand the statement as a falsehood.

To the officers of the counties interested, Beaver county, Oklahoma, and Stevens county, Kansas, and W. T. Clark, sheriff of Reno county, Kansas, Ellis, who is confined in the Reno county jail at Hutchinson, made a fourth confession Sunday evening.

For the first time since his incarceration, Ellis broke down completely. He has always maintained a calm demeanor, but on this occasion, according to the officers, he broke down, cried like a baby and prayed, declaring he was telling the truth.

This statement differs from a previous statement but slightly and is merely the details of how Miller and Smith killed John Longnecker.

The statement follows: Statement of Harry K. Ellis, relative to the killing of John Longnecker and Henry B. Smith.

Henry Smith and Miller had seen Longnecker in Liberal with money on him about a week before he was killed. They told me about having this money on him and they wanted me to get in with them, and they wanted to know when I could go and help them and I told them about the protracted meeting going on over there, and that I could go most any night, and we planned to go that Wednesday night, but they seen my folks in Liberal that Wednesday morning and they come on out to my place, Wednesday, April 27th. I got vaps's gun and them shells and went with them over to Longnecker's. The understanding between us was that Miller was to do the shooting. When we drove over there we drove right up north of the barn and John Longnecker was in the barn harnessing his horses. He come out and him Henry Smith squatted down in front of the car and was talking about the shock absorbers, and Miller was standing out in front of the car and looking Longnecker about four or five feet, and Smith got up and went around to the left back door of the car and Miller shot Longnecker.

Then Smith run around and cut his throat with his own knife and then Miller picked up this club and hit him in the forehead, and Smith took this money out of his shirt pocket. There was between six and seven hundred dollars, and he put it in his left coat pocket, and then Smith and Miller started to drag him around behind the barn, and they told me to turn the car around. They come back and got in the back seat of the car and I drove the car home. They wanted me to drive Longnecker's car to town that day and I told them I couldn't; that the folks was up town. The way home they divided the money between themselves and I was to take the car for my share. I agreed to take the car for my share, and when we got back home Smith gave me the gun back and gave me a \$10 bill for the use of the gun. They left there and I never seen Miller any more until after the Longnecker body was found. I went to literary Friday night, and me and Henry Smith went after the car. Smith took me in his own car; we went a mile west of the school house, then two north and back up to Longnecker's house, and Smith cranked up Longnecker's car and I drove it to the first section line west of Longnecker's, then three south and a half east; then I took the coils out and Smith took a bulb out and put them in his car and we went back to the school house; we were not gone over thirty minutes. I afterwards hid three of the coils in the maize bin on my father's place.

HARRY K. ELLIS,

BOY SCOUTS START MEMORABLE TRIP

Forty-One Members Left Tuesday On 1,000 Mile Camping Trip

The Boy Scouts started at 7:30 a. m., June 14th, on the three Reo trucks with forty-one First Class Scouts, six Scoutmasters and three truck drivers.

The route decided upon unless changed on account of roads and weather conditions, is as follows:

Liberal to Tyrone, Hooker, Guyton, Goodwell, Texhoma, Stratford, Dalhart, Texline, Clayton, Des Moines, Raton, Cimarron Canyon, Red River Canyon, Taos, Questa, Sunshine Valley, Jarosa, Blanca, Fort Garland, La Veta Pass, Waldenburg, and home; over the best roads which may be by way of Pueblo and Santa Fe Trail or by way of Trinidad and the Plains Mountain Highway.

The following Scouts are on the trip:

Robert Baughman, George Sessler, Chester Jones, John Irwin, Alfred C. Hodges, Newman Warford, Ralph Pellette, Floyd W. Gyger, Aubrey Hays, Cecil Doll, Seldon Wallis, William Ferguson, Richard Zimmerman, Robert Kermit Hill, Marion Browning, Earl Pate, Donald Rader, Richard Farmer, Ralph Matkin, Lester Elmsaesser, Walker Maxwell, Paul Gray, Glenn Crump, Kenneth Sawyer, Hilden Sawyer, Jack Miller, Raymond Boles, William Levi, A. J. Core, Jr., Lloyd E. Snyder, Forrest Wyman, Wayne Grinstead, Kenneth Ravenscroft, Walter Potter, Harvey McPherson, Earl Bain, Roscoe Nichols, Jr., George Gray, Clifford Walker, Chester Emery and Gene Baker.

The Scout Masters: Eli Walker, E. A. Pennington, John R. Pennington, Willard Harnden, Charles A. Buchanan and B. A. Myer.

Truck drivers: John W. Baughman, D. G. McCombs and O. E. Purry.

The Boy Scouts of Liberal were organized about one year ago. At first the program was very slow. During the summer Mr. John W. Baughman financed and went with forty-two boys on a camping trip into Oklahoma extending over the

best part of a week. This effort was so successful that Mr. Baughman made this proposition to the boys: "That he would take all boys who became first class scouts by the following summer on an extended camping trip."

The proposition has been an incentive to harder work, and the desire to build up the organization. Too date June 12, 1921, there are enrolled 100 Boy Scouts and Scout officers. This has proven that Boy Scout work could be built up in every community, if public spirited men would thus interest themselves in this noble enterprise. Boys respond to such encouragement to a wonderful degree.

As another result of this proposition, forty-one boys have completed the necessary tests to win, not only a place in the camping party but now possess the information which only First Class Scouts possess—information which will be a benefit to them and their country as long as they live.

True to his promise, Mr. Baughman has made all necessary preparation for a ten day trip, passing thru parts of Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and our own state Kansas covering a distance of over 1000 miles, traveling in Reo Speed Wagons, three cars carrying the boys a third carrying the baggage and equipment.

Three days will be spent camping in the Red River Canyon of New Mexico. While in New Mexico, the party will be accompanied by C. R. Dwire, Deputy Forest Supervisor, and an expert guide. Every arrangement possible has been made for a most extraordinary trip, which will not only be interesting and enjoyable but educational. On our return we hope to begin planning for a permanent building equipped to handle this growing enterprise, which is calculated to make strong, vigorous, clean-minded and honorable men from the material of boyhood so plentiful in every community.

The officers in charge are: J. W. Baughman, Transportation Officer and General Manager. Eli Walker, Scout Commissioner. E. A. Pennington, Commissary Officer, and Scout Master. John R. Pennington, Equipment Officer and Scout Master. Bernard Meyers, Health Officer and Scout Master. Chas. Buchanan, Assistant Scout Master. Willard Harnden, Assistant Scout Master. Robert W. Baughman, Senior Patrol Leader.

MAJESTIC THEATRE CHANGES OWNERSHIP

Roy Thorp of Satanta Buys The Building and Equipment

The Majestic theatre passed under new ownership Wednesday when Roy Thorp of Satanta purchased the building and equipment of G. M. LeMonnier and A. E. Blake.

Mr. Thorp has had some experience in the picture show business and has secured the service of Wm. Wright to handle the machine, which is a guarantee that the pictures will be first class.

Just what improvements will be made is not known as yet but it likely that the new owner will make some changes and betterments. He will devote all his time to the business and endeavor to keep the place at the top of the list as a high class show house.

Mr. LeMonnier will continue to manage the theatre until June 25th when Mr. Thorp will take over the active management.

The Democrat welcomes Mr. Thorp to the city and congratulates him on his purchase which should prove a highly profitable one.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Durr of Goodwell were in Liberal Thursday on business.

Mrs. Lillie A. Morrow and little daughter, Margaret, expect to leave soon for an extended visit to points north.

GRABER SUPPLY CO. OPENS NEW STORE

Handles Threshers, Engines, Thresher Supplies and Repairs

The Graber Supply Company has just completed a commodious building in South Liberal and now have on hand an almost complete stock of thresher supplies, belting, etc. as well as tractors, power drawn implements and threshers.

The company has the agency for the Hart-Parr tractor and Illinois separators, and have these on hand as well as almost everything the thresherman needs in his business.

The firm has a large store at Hutchinson and after making an exhaustive survey of the territory decided on Liberal as the logical point for a branch. That they are here to stay is attested by the nature of the improvements they have made and the stock they have shipped here.

The business will be under the management of Mr. Carl Graber of Hutchinson who came to Liberal Tuesday and he and Mrs. Graber are nicely located on North Kansas Avenue.

He will be assisted by Chas. Jones who is well known by Charno Jones who is well known for his experience in this line of business.

The new firm starts out right by buying a good space in the Democrat to make known their lines.

GRAY STAR ROUTE HAS BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED

Postmaster E. S. Irwin informs the Democrat that the Liberal-Gray star route has again been extended to Perryton, Texas.

When the railroad was built into Perryton, the route running from Liberal through Gray was discontinued beyond Gray. Liberal business men and those at Gray and Perryton were not pleased with the arrangement and petitioned the post-office Department to re-establish the discontinued portion.

Word came Tuesday that the petition had been granted and the change will take effect June 16th.

There are a lot of business between the towns and the discontinuance of the route worked a great hardship as mail had to travel a considerable distance before reaching its destination, and the people of the towns on the route are pleased that the department has seen fit to again institute the service.

TAYLOR WENT SERENADING

The people of Liberal last night were wondering who was responsible for the music which filled the air. An auto went through the streets making some excellent music. Many thought some sort of an orchestra was making the music, but was later discovered that Chas. Taylor of the Taylor Drug & Music Store was giving a phonograph demonstration. It was hard to believe that an instrument would give such volume of music in the open air, but such was the case. It was a treat all right and appreciated.

Mr. Taylor is making quite a drive in the phonograph business at this time, and has placed several machines. He says they are back to pre-war prices, and he has some excellent models to stock up for those who want a machine at the new prices.

SMITH'S CAP FOUND

The cap was found about 100 yards south of the east and west road in a position 150 yards straight east of where Smith's body was found, on top of a small hill.

It was given to the officers by the sheriff, who says that his name he withheld.

It was right at the place Ellis said it was, in his statement to the officers.

NOT ABANDONING LIBERAL FIELD

Traders Company Shut-Down Is Merely Temporary Says Official

"The Traders Oil Company is absolutely not abandoning the Liberal field," said H. H. McQuigg of the Traders Oil Corporation to a Democrat reporter Monday.

In the course of an interview Mr. McQuigg gave out some facts in connection with the local oil situation which will be pleasing news to the members of the fraternity here.

According to Mr. McQuigg the Bunting well has reached a depth of 1,835 feet with a twelve inch hole in the best of condition. "The hole can be carried deeper," said Mr. McQuigg "and it will be. It is the purpose of the company to make a thorough test."

He gives the information that the officials of the company are very optimistic over the possibilities of the Liberal field and much pleased with the discovery of gas in the Boles well.

"The gas in the Boles well has been shut in and the hole is in the best of condition," said Mr. McQuigg.

We gathered from his statements that the suspension of operations is merely temporary and due to the condition of the oil business which has been hard hit by the price slump. He seems to feel that this condition will soon be relieved and when that time comes it is likely that the Traders folks will start development work on a larger scale than formerly.

There is a strong probability of the Boles well being drilled deeper. When the well was shut in the rumor was current that oil had been found, and this has been neither confirmed nor denied by company officials and there is a strong possibility of both wells being brought in as soon as conditions warrant.

There is also a rumor afloat to the effect that the Bunting No. 1 by the Traders Company has developed a big gasser. Farmers living in the vicinity are authority for the story that during the night recently the whole country was lighted up for miles, and it is their opinion that the well was tested. When questioned regarding this Mr. McQuigg smiled and had nothing to say. Whether this meant it was a fact or that there was nothing to it, we are not prepared to say. However, the story comes mighty straight and there is reason for believing the story to have some foundation.

The development work done so far by this company has meant a lot to Liberal and the Southwest and it is quite pleasing to know that they have not abandoned the field as some few thought last week. That they are quitting temporarily because of business conditions is not to be wondered at when they are again ready to resume operations they should be given the glad hand and all possible encouragement.

ELDERLY LADY STRANDED IN LIBERAL SUNDAY

Mrs. W. W. Hollingswood, aged 64 years, found herself stranded here Sunday, penniless and a stranger. She stated that some one had stolen her purse in Kansas City, and her railroad ticket was paid only to Liberal and her destination was Tucumcari, N. M.

Marshall Higgins took her charge and made up a purse from the men of the city which netted her the fare to Tucumcari with \$9.00 to the good. She expressed great appreciation to the people of Liberal for their kindness.

See us for FARM AND CITY LOANS any day. Moore & Franklin

MILLER MAINTAINS A SILENT ATTITUDE

While Ellis Makes Many Statements Miller Refuses To Talk

There are no new developments in the murder cases as the paper goes to press. While all sorts of rumors about officials say they have nothing new to give out.

The last confession of Harry Ellis acknowledging complicity in the murder of John Longnecker is the latest.

Officers visited Miller in the Finney county jail Tuesday and questioned him for eight hours without results. He maintains his innocence and brands the statements of Ellis as a pack of lies and nothing more.

Rumor is linking the names of several others with the murders but officials deny these rumors so there is really nothing to give out more than is already known.

It is known that several others have been questioned regarding the case but so far as we can learn only as witnesses, and no further arrests have been made or is it likely will be made.

Interest in the case while tense is not so noticeable as late last week, and the further statement of Miller is awaited.

Persons living near young Smith and those well acquainted with him give no credence to the story of Ellis that Smith has a part in the Longnecker murder. It is thought possible Smith became acquainted with the body and was put out of the way to keep him from telling, but we have yet to find the person in the neighborhood where he lived who